CLAIMS:

1. A method of testing an airbag module comprising the step of testing said module for exposure to a given fluid.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said given fluid is water.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1or 2, wherein said fluid exposure test comprises the step of inspecting said airbag module or a swab taken therefrom by means of Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy techniques.

4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said fluid exposure test comprises the step of inspecting said airbag module or a swab taken therefrom for deposits of a metal.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal comprises the step of inspecting for cations.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal quantifies the amount of metal deposited.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal quantifies the amount of metal deposited for a given surface area of airbag module.

8. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal comprises the step of taking a swab from a surface of said airbag module by applying a solvent to said surface.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the solvent is 5% hydrochloric acid.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal further comprises the step of agitating said swab with 1% lanthanum chloride solution.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of inspecting for deposits of a metal further comprises the step of inspecting the mixture of 1% lanthanum chloride solution and swab by means of Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy so as to determine the quantity of a deposited metal present in said mixture.

12. A method as claimed in any of claims 8 to11, wherein said swab is taken from a surface of said airbag module which cannot be conveniently wiped clean.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said surface is a surface of or adjacent a gas generator of said airbag module.

14. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said surface is a surface of a reaction can of said airbag module.

15. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 14, wherein the fluid exposure test comprises the further step of determining a threshold quantity of a deposited metal which, if found on said airbag module, indicates an unacceptable risk of said module having been damaged through fluid exposure.

16. A method as claimed in any of claims 4 to 15, wherein said deposited metal is calcium or sodium.

17. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said fluid exposure test comprises the step of inspecting said airbag module or a swab taken therefrom by means of Inductively Coupled Plasma, polarography or colourimetric techniques.

18. A method of testing an airbag module comprising the steps of: (i) locating an airbag module which has been previously installed; (ii) establishing a set of criteria to be satisfied before said airbag module is deemed acceptable for future use; and (iii) investigating against said set of criteria so as to determine the acceptability of said airbag module for future use.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 comprising the methods of testing an airbag module for exposure to a given fluid according to any of claims 1 to 17.